



State Senator

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VALDE GARCIA

Serving the 22nd District

Shiawassee-Livingston-Southern Ingham counties

A Glimpse of Current Legislation & Critical Issues

Focus: Religious Organizations and the Faith-Based Community

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Do you have any questions or concerns regarding state-funded scholarships?

By visiting www.michigan.gov you will find numerous financial aid opportunities for first time students as well as grant information for those seeking to continue their education.

Restrictions to be Eliminated for Theology Students

A package of bills passed the Senate today eliminating restrictions for theology students seeking financial aid. The 7 bills, each of which received full support by Sen. Garcia, have yet to be reviewed by the House of Representatives before they are signed into law by the governor.

Students seeking state sponsored scholarships or grants have been prohibited from receiving assistance if they were seeking a degree in theology, divinity, or religious education. The collection of bills, if passed, would allow these students to apply for financial aid through the Michigan Merit Scholarship, the Michigan Educational Opportunity Grant, Michigan Competitive Scholarships, the Part-Time Independent Student Grant, and the Michigan Tuition Grant. Currently, theology students can receive private awards or funding through endowments provided by the educational institution they are attending. Should they become statute, these bills will allow *all* students, regardless of degree, to have the opportunity to attend a post-secondary school.

If you wish to learn more about the theology legislation, please visit www.michiganlegislature.org an enter bill numbers 625-629, 661, and 662 where indicated.